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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/709,249	11/10/2000	Alan H. Lazarus	701826-050990	3430

7590 04/03/2003
Nixon Peabody LLP
101 Federal Street
Boston, MA 02110

EXAMINER

EWOLDT, GERALD R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1644

DATE MAILED: 04/03/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/709,249

Applicant(s)
Lazarus et al.

Examiner
G.R. Ewoldt

Art Unit
1644



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 2/27/03 and 3/10/03.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-5 are pending and being acted upon.
2. In view of the declaration of Inventor Lazarus, filed 3/10/03, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) has been withdrawn.
3. The following are new grounds for rejection. Given said new rejections, this Office action is non-final.
4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:
The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
5. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the laboratory designations "W6/32, L368, and MA2.1" are vague and indefinite as it is unclear precisely which antibodies would or would not be encompassed by the claims. Applicant is advised that antibodies are best identified by ATCC Accession No.
6. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:
The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.
7. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

It is apparent that the antibodies W6/32, L368, and MA2.1 are required to practice the claimed invention. As required elements, they must be known and readily available to the public or obtainable by a repeatable method set forth in the specification. If they are not so obtainable or available, the enablement requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, may be satisfied by a deposit of the pertinent antibodies. See 37 CFR

1.801-1.809. If the deposit is made under the provisions of the Budapest Treaty, then an affidavit or declaration to that effect is required.

In addition to the conditions under the Budapest Treaty, applicant is required to satisfy that all restrictions imposed by the depositor on the availability to the public of the deposited material will be irrevocably removed upon the granting of a patent in U.S. patent applications.

Applicant's deposit and provision of these assurances through the submission of an appropriate declaration would obviate this rejection.

8. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for:

a method for inhibiting an HLA alloimmune response to platelet transfusion comprising presensitizing platelets with a monoclonal antibody, or F(ab)₂ fragment thereof, against HLA Class I,

does not reasonably provide enablement for:

a method for inhibiting an HLA alloimmune response to platelet transfusion comprising presensitizing platelets with a monoclonal antibody against HLA.

The specification disclosure is insufficient to enable one skilled in the art to practice the invention as claimed without an undue amount of experimentation. Undue experimentation must be considered in light of factors including: the breadth of the claims, the nature of the invention, the state of the prior art, the level of one of ordinary skill in the art, the level of predictability of the art, the amount of direction provided by the inventor, the existence of working examples, and the quantity of experimentation needed to make or use the invention.

Regarding an antibody against any HLA, said term encompasses antibodies that would bind both HLA Class I and HLA Class II. It is noted, however, that the specification discloses only the use of anti-HLA Class I (or β -2 microglobulin) antibodies (see for example Table 1). Additionally, Class I and Class II HLA antigens are expressed on substantially different cell types, i.e., Class I is expressed on essentially all nucleated cells whereas Class II is expressed primarily on antigen presenting cells (APCs). The binding of APCs alone would not likely result in the inhibition of an alloimmune response. Accordingly, given

the breadth of the claims, the claimed method would be highly unpredictable and requiring of undue experimentation.

Regarding the definition of the term "monoclonal antibody" at pages 4-5 of the specification, it is noted that the term is defined to encompass F(ab) fragments thereof. It is further noted that the specification is silent regarding the specific mechanism by which the instant method functions, but it is speculated at page 2 that some sort of cross-linking might be involved. As F(ab) fragments are incapable of cross-linking their antigens, they could not function in a method that required said cross-linking. Given the fact that the specification discloses only the use of whole antibodies or F(ab)₂ fragment thereof (both capable of cross-linking antigen), a method employing just F(ab) fragments would be considered to be highly unpredictable and requiring of undue experimentation.

In re Wands, 858 F.2d at 737, 8 USPQ2d at 1404 (Fed. Cir. 1988) indicates that the more unpredictable an area is, the more specific enablement is necessary in order to satisfy the statute. Thus, in view of the quantity of experimentation necessary, the lack of sufficient working examples encompassing the breadth of the claimed invention, the unpredictability of the art, and the lack of sufficient guidance in the specification, it would take undue trials and errors to practice the claimed invention.

9. No claim is allowed.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dr. Gerald Ewoldt whose telephone number is (703) 308-9805. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Thursday from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm. A message may be left on the examiner's voice mail service. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christina Chan can be reached on (703) 308-3973. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Technology Center 1600 receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

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Papers related to this application may be submitted to Technology Center 1600 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Technology Center 1600 via the PTO Fax Center located in Crystal Mall 1 at (703) 305-3014. The CM1 Fax Center telephone numbers are 703-872-9306 (before final) and 703-872-9307 (after final).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G.R. Ewoldt', with a stylized, cursive script.

G.R. Ewoldt, Ph.D.
Primary Examiner
Technology Center 1600
April 2, 2003